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**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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Memphis, TN- Terrell L. Harris, the United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, announced today that Timothy W. Lowrance, a resident of Newbern, Tennessee, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Julia Smith Gibbons to twelve months imprisonment and a three year term of supervised release following his conviction for violating the federal conspiracy statute.

On May 2, 2002, Lowrance pleaded guilty to an information charging him with conspiracy to commit mail fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, § 371. The information charged that Lowrance operated the West Tennessee Handgun Permit School, a school authorized to teach a statutorily required handgun safety course. According to the information, an individual applying for a state-issued handgun carry permit is required to take and pass the safety course in order to obtain a permit. The information further charged that the members of the

conspiracy provided certificates signed by Lowrance, which indicated that an applicant had passed the safety course, to individuals who had not taken and passed the course. The conspiracy operated from December of 2000 to June of 2001.

The case was investigated by Jack Cunningham and Bill Yates, investigators with the Tennessee Highway Patrol's Criminal Investigation Division, Brent Booth of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and John Lewoczko of the Jackson office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Joe Murphy, Assistant United States Attorney.

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